



# *Fisheries and Aquaculture*

## *Annual Report 2007-2008*





**Prince Edward Island  
Department of  
Fisheries and Aquaculture**

**Annual Report  
2007-2008**



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To the Honourable Barbara Hagerman  
Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island

Madam:

I have the honour to submit herewith the  
Annual Report of the Department of Fisheries  
and Aquaculture for the fiscal year ended  
March 31, 2008.

I have the honour to be, Madam,  
Your obedient servant,

Honorable Barbara Hagerman  
Lieutenant-gouverneur de l'Île-du-Prince-  
Édouard

Votre Honneur,

J'ai l'honneur de soumettre sous ce pli le rapport  
annuel du ministère des Pêches et de l'Aquaculture  
pour l'année financière se terminant le 31 mars  
2008.

Respectueusement soumis,

Allan V. Campbell  
Minister, Fisheries and Aquaculture  
Ministre, Pêches et Aquaculture



## Deputy Minister's Overview

To the Honourable Allan V. Campbell  
Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Sir:

I am pleased to submit this report of activities of the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2008, along with the year-end budget summary. This report will focus on the activities of the department during the period April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008.

Over the past year, the newly formed Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture has been able to offer a more focused commitment to the Island's fishing, aquaculture and seafood processing industries. The fishing and aquaculture industries continue to be a vital part of the economy of Prince Edward Island with the landed value reaching \$130 million and the overall economic impact being more than \$350 million.

Department staff have been working hard to follow up on the Atlantic Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers meeting held in Montreal, where ministers agreed to pursue the integrated approach of managing the Atlantic fisheries through what is being referred to as the oceans-to-plate approach. The ministers also agreed to establish a working group on seafood marketing and encouraged the federal minister to table a new and modernized fisheries act.

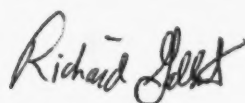
Staff are also implementing the commitment of the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers to establish a task group on eco-labeling and look at a co-ordinated regulatory and governance framework for aquaculture.

A co-ordinating committee has been formed to implement the Memorandum of Agreement on Aquaculture in Atlantic Canada that was signed by the Atlantic ministers responsible for aquaculture. This memorandum solidifies the excellent working relationship between the provincial governments and will ensure important issues are addressed collectively.

The department increased its efforts, in co-operation with the aquaculture industry and other government agencies, to address the growing problems associated with aquatic invasive species. The department was a funding partner in numerous projects to assist industry with developing equipment and technologies for the control of tunicates.

The fishing, aquaculture and seafood processing industries of Prince Edward Island continue to adapt to new demands in the marketplace, the need to protect and enhance the environment and to produce safe, high quality products. The department remains committed to continue to support these industries by helping them to become more innovative, competitive and profitable. These industries are part of the economic foundation of the Island's economy, and the goal of the department is to increase their contribution for the benefit of all Islanders.

At this time, I would like to thank all the employees of the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture for displaying outstanding teamwork and dedication in serving the clients of the fishing, aquaculture and seafood processing sectors of Prince Edward Island.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Gallant". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a stylized "G".

Richard Gallant  
Deputy Minister





## Tour d'horizon du sous-ministre

Honorable Allan V. Campbell  
Ministre des Pêches et de l'Aquaculture

Monsieur,

Je suis heureux de soumettre le présent rapport d'activités du ministère des Pêches et de l'Aquaculture pour l'année financière se terminant le 31 mars 2008, ainsi que le sommaire budgétaire de fin d'exercice.

Ce rapport se concentrera sur les activités ministérielles qui ont eu lieu du 1<sup>er</sup> avril 2007 au 31 mars 2008.

Au cours de la dernière année, le ministère des Pêches et de l'Aquaculture, nouvellement formé, a su offrir un engagement plus ciblé aux industries de la pêche, de l'aquaculture et de la transformation des fruits de mer. Les industries de la pêche et de l'aquaculture continuent d'être une partie vitale de l'économie de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard, la valeur au débarquement atteignant les 130 millions de dollars et l'impact économique général se chiffrant à plus de 350 millions de dollars.

Le personnel du ministère a travaillé avec énergie pour assurer les suivis de la réunion du Conseil des ministres des Pêches et de l'Aquaculture de l'Atlantique tenue à Montréal, où les ministres ont accepté de poursuivre l'approche intégrée de gérer les pêches de l'Atlantique par l'entremise de ce qu'on appelle l'approche De la mer à la table. Les ministres ont également accepté d'établir un groupe de travail sur la commercialisation des fruits de mer et encouragé le ministre fédéral à déposer une nouvelle loi plus moderne sur les pêches.

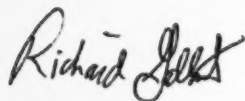
Le personnel est aussi en train de mettre en oeuvre l'engagement pris par le Conseil canadien des ministres des Pêches et de l'Aquaculture de créer un groupe de travail sur l'éco-étiquetage et d'examiner la création d'un cadre co-ordonné de réglementation et de gouvernance en matière d'aquaculture.

Un comité de co-ordination a été formé pour mettre en oeuvre le protocole d'entente sur l'aquaculture au Canada atlantique signé par les ministres responsables de l'aquaculture en Atlantique. Ce protocole renforcera les excellents liens de travail entre les gouvernements provinciaux et assurera que les questions importantes sont abordées de façon collective.

Le ministère a augmenté ses efforts en collaboration avec l'industrie aquacole pour aborder le problème croissant associé aux espèces aquatiques envahissantes. Le ministère a été un partenaire financier dans le cadre de plusieurs projets pour aider l'industrie à développer de l'équipement et de la technologie pour le contrôle des tuniciers.

Les industries de la pêche, de l'aquaculture et de la transformation des fruits de mer à l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard continuent de s'adapter aux nouvelles exigences du marché, de protéger et d'améliorer l'environnement et d'offrir des produits sécuritaires de grande qualité. Le ministère est toujours engagé à continuer d'appuyer ces industries en les aidant à devenir plus novatrices, concurrentielles et rentables. Ces industries sont à la base de l'économie de la province et le but du ministère est d'augmenter leur contribution au profit de tous les Insulaires.

Je profite de l'occasion pour exprimer ma reconnaissance aux employés du ministère des Pêches et de l'Aquaculture pour leur excellent travail d'équipe et pour leur dévouement à servir les clients des secteurs de la pêche, de l'aquaculture et de la transformation de fruits de mer de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard.



Richard Gallant  
Sous-ministre





## The Year in Review

The Prince Edward Island fisheries and aquaculture industries exhibited moderate growth in 2007. The landed value of lobsters, the major fishery, was in the area of \$105 million. The aquaculture industry had a landed value of approximately \$30 million.

During the year, lobster management plans for the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence, including Lobster Fishing Areas (LFAs) 24 and 26A, were announced, along with a new management plan for LFA 25. The department, in co-operation with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Atlantic Veterinary College and the Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association, continues to research and closely monitor the state of the resource in these lobster fishing areas.

Prince Edward Island hosted the 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference and Workshop on Lobster Biology and Management in September.

The snow crab quota in Area 12 was decreased by 10 per cent in 2007. The total allowable catch for cod in Area 4T was reduced by 50 per cent. In the herring fishery, the spring quota was reduced to 5,000 metric tonnes from 9,000 the previous year, while the fall quota was unchanged at 68,000 tonnes. Landings were significantly below the quota. Prince Edward Island received quota for the tuna fishery of roughly 148 metric tonnes. The total allowable

catch of Northern and Gulf Shrimp was unchanged from 2006.

Prince Edward Island continues to request additional quota in species such as snow crab, shrimp and tuna.

Markets for both Irish moss and *Furcellaria* continued to be weak in 2007.

The department continues to monitor aquaculture species including mussels and oysters. The mussel monitoring program assists growers in managing their lease sites. Over the past year, trials were conducted to assess the impact of shellbed cultivation on oyster beds in West River.

The department partnered with the Prince Edward Island Shellfish Association and the Central Development Corporation to develop a 60-site trailer park at Hurd's Point for oyster fishers to utilize during the spring season.

Significant attention was directed to dealing with the impacts of aquatic invasive species. A research project was undertaken with the Prince Edward Island Aquaculture Alliance to collect information on the impact of invasive species on oysters. A proposal was developed for a research project to study low impact treatment methods to manage tunicate species on mussel farms. In co-operation with DFO, funding was provided to the mussel industry for projects related to the development of equipment and

technologies for the control of tunicates. The department continues to be active in a number of committees and task forces with the federal government and other provinces on policy, research and programs on invasive species.

The province hosted the second International Sea Squirt Conference in September.

Ministers responsible for aquaculture in Atlantic Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together to develop in the industry in the region

The department continues to promote fisheries and aquaculture products in local, domestic and international markets through festivals, seafood promotion campaigns and trade shows. It continues its commitment to work with all sectors of the industry to improve the quantity and quality of seafood products through sustainable management practices.



## Bilan de l'année

Les secteurs des pêches et de l'aquaculture de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard ont connu une croissance modérée en 2007. La valeur au débarquement du homard, la plus importante pêche, s'est située autour de 105 millions de dollars. La valeur au débarquement du secteur de l'aquaculture a été d'environ 30 millions de dollars.

Au cours de l'année, on a annoncé des plans de gestion des pêches du homard pour le sud du golfe du Saint-Laurent, notamment, pour les ZPH 24 et 26A, ainsi qu'un nouveau plan de gestion pour la ZPH 25. Le ministère, de concert avec le ministère des Pêches et des Océans, le Collège vétérinaire de l'Atlantique et la Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association, continue de faire de la recherche et de surveiller étroitement l'état de la ressource dans ces zones de pêche du homard.

L'Île-du-Prince-Édouard a été l'hôte de la 8<sup>e</sup> Conférence internationale sur la gestion et la biologie du homard en septembre.

Le quota de pêche du crabe des neiges a été abaissé de 10 % dans la zone 12 en 2007. Quant au quota de pêche applicable à la morue, il a été abaissé de 50 % dans la zone 4T. Pour ce qui est de la pêche de printemps du hareng, on a diminué le quota, qui était de 9 000 l'année précédente, à 5 000 tonnes métriques. Le quota de pêche d'automne est demeuré le même, à 68 000 tonnes. La pêche a été nettement inférieure aux quotas établis. L'Île-du-Prince-

Édouard a obtenu, pour la pêche du thon, un quota d'environ 148 tonnes métriques. Pour ce qui est de la crevette nordique et de la crevette du Golfe, les quotas sont restés les mêmes qu'en 2006.

L'Île-du-Prince-Édouard continue de demander des quotas additionnels pour des espèces comme le crabe des neiges, la crevette et le thon.

Les marchés de la mousse d'Irlande et de la *Furcellaria* sont restés faibles en 2007.

Le ministère continue de contrôler les espèces aquacoles, notamment, la moule et l'huître. Le programme de suivi de la moule aide les éleveurs à gérer leurs concessions. Au cours de l'année passée, on a réalisé des essais visant à évaluer l'incidence des bancs d'huîtres à West River.

Le ministère s'est associé à la Prince Edward Island Shellfish Association et à la Central Development Corporation pour créer à Hurd's Point un terrain de résidences mobiles de 60 places que les pêcheurs d'huîtres peuvent utiliser au printemps.

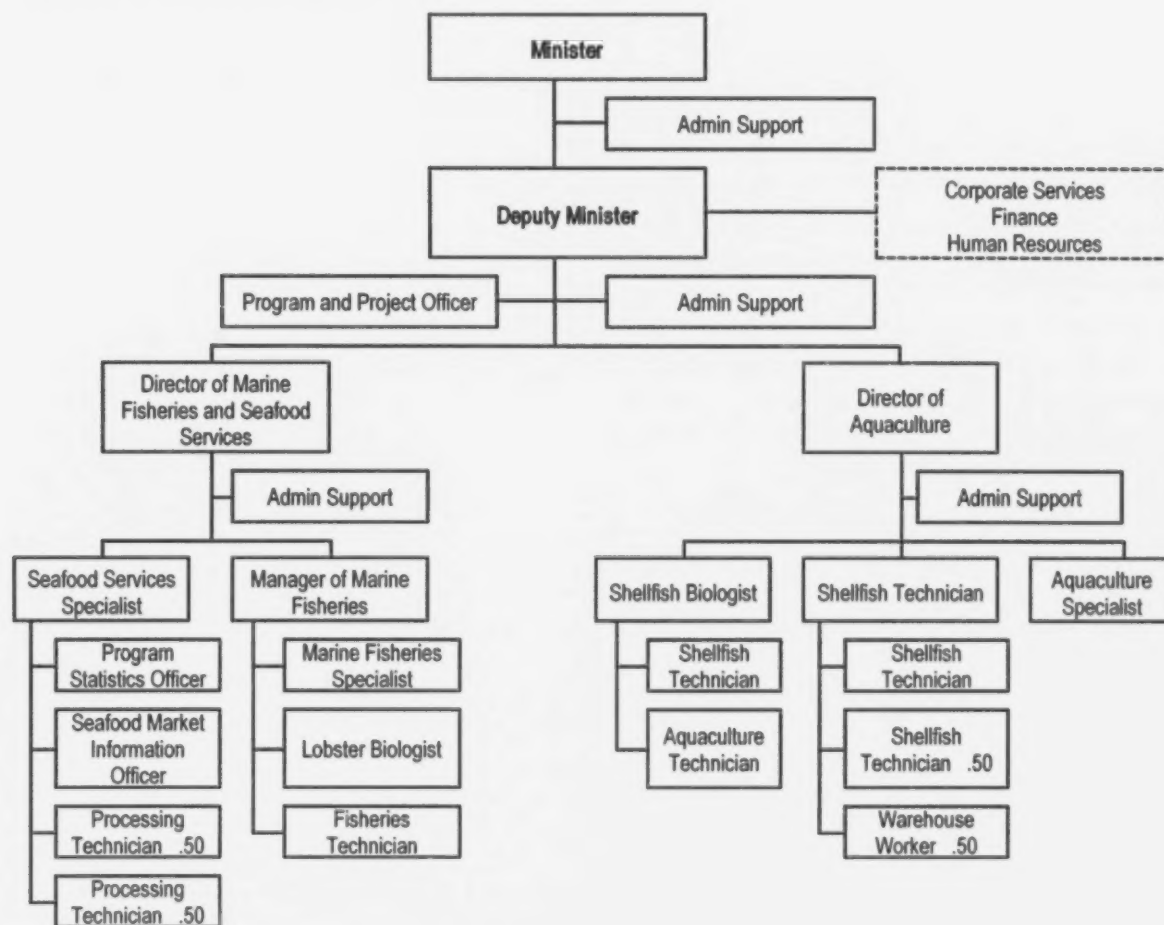
On a accordé beaucoup d'attention à l'effet des espèces aquatiques envahissantes. On a entrepris, de concert avec la Prince Edward Island Aquaculture Alliance, un projet de recherche visant à recueillir de l'information sur l'effet des espèces envahissantes sur les huîtres. On a préparé une proposition portant sur un projet d'étude des méthodes de traitement écologiques permettant de gérer les tuniciers qui se trouvent dans les moulières. De concert avec Pêches et Océans Canada, on a versé au secteur de la moule des fonds pour la réalisation de projets liés à la conception de matériel et de technologies servant au contrôle des tuniciers. Le ministère poursuit ses travaux au sein de divers comités et groupes de travail auxquels participent le gouvernement fédéral et d'autres provinces et qui se penchent sur les politiques, la recherche et les programmes visant les espèces envahissantes.

En septembre, la province a été l'hôte de la 2<sup>e</sup> Conférence internationale sur l'ascidie jaune.

Les ministres responsables de l'aquaculture dans le Canada atlantique ont signé un protocole d'entente par lequel ils s'engagent à travailler ensemble au développement des pêches et de l'aquaculture dans la région.

Le ministère continue de faire la promotion des produits des pêches et des produits aquacoles dans les marchés locaux, nationaux et internationaux dans le cadre de festivals, de campagnes de promotion des fruits de mer et de salons professionnels. Il demeure engagé à coopérer avec tous les intervenants du secteur afin qu'ils recourent à des méthodes de gestion écologiques pour améliorer la quantité et la qualité des produits de la mer.

## Organizational Chart





## Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture 2007-2008 Expenditures and Revenue

Division	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Actual Expenditure/Revenue
<b>Expenditure Budget</b>			
Minister and Deputy's Office	\$240,000	\$268,900	\$215,574
Fisheries and Aquaculture Division	\$3,405,900	\$3,427,000	\$3,312,056
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,645,900</b>	<b>\$3,695,900</b>	<b>\$3,527,630</b>
<b>Revenue Budget</b>			
Fisheries and Aquaculture Division	\$135,000	\$185,000	\$396,586
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$135,000</b>	<b>\$185,000</b>	<b>\$396,586</b>
<b>Total Net</b>	<b>\$3,510,900</b>	<b>\$3,510,900</b>	<b>\$3,131,044</b>

*(Based on Financial Reports of September 15, 2008)*

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## Mandate

The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture provides programs and services to the marine fisheries, aquaculture and seafood processing sectors in order to fulfil its mandate of providing quality advice, assistance and information to clients. The department is committed to the growth of sustainable, prosperous fishing, aquaculture and seafood processing enterprises in Prince Edward Island. Prince Edward Island's primary industries continue to be the foundation of the provincial economy, rural communities and the Island way of life. Ensuring the sustainable growth of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors is critical to the future of the province and efforts to broaden and diversify these industries and to add further value to the natural resources of the sea is a high priority for the department.

**The Marine Fisheries and Seafood Services Division** acts as an advocate for the Prince Edward Island fishing industry and takes part in many species advisory committees with the industry and the federal government, which manages marine fisheries resources. The Marine Fisheries Section carries out applied biological research in support of major fish species such as lobster, as well as developmental or emerging species.

The Seafood Services Section promotes fish quality through the administration of the Prince Edward Island *Fish Inspection Act* and the Prince Edward Island *Fisheries Act*, which includes responsibility for licensing and inspection of all fish-buying stations and fish-processing facilities in the province.

**The Aquaculture Division** provides programming to support the growth and sustainability of aquaculture businesses. The aquaculture sector continues to make a strong contribution to the fishery and remains a sector with potential for further growth and increased economic returns. As well, assistance is provided to encourage new technology in aquaculture, and research is carried out on species that offer potential for culture. Staff have expertise in all facets of aquaculture production and provide essential technical and biological services to the industry.

## Industry Overview

The Prince Edward Island fishing and aquaculture industries employ approximately 9,000 people in both the harvesting and processing sectors. Lobster continues to be the primary economic driver of the Island's fishing industry with a landed value in excess of \$100 million. The Island's aquaculture industry contributed approximately \$30 million in landed value in 2007.

Statistics on the fisheries and aquaculture industries, including detailed information on fish landings and values and historical data on mussel landings and values are contained in **Appendix I, Appendix II and Appendix III**, respectively. The overall economic impact from the fishery, including the service sector, is more than \$350 million.



## Marine Fisheries and Seafood Services Division

### *Marine Fisheries Section*

The main role of the Marine Fisheries Section is to represent the interests of Prince Edward Island within the federal advisory committee process and to assist the Island fishing industry to represent their views fairly and fully.

#### **Provincial Legal Action Case**

The Government of Prince Edward Island withdrew its legal action against the Government of Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The action challenged the constitutional power of the federal fisheries minister when making licensing and other management decisions.

It was decided to discontinue the legal action following consultations with legal counsel, after the courts ruled earlier in the year that the case would have to be heard in the Federal Court of Canada. This would be a difficult and costly proceeding, with an uncertain outcome.

A number of circumstances changed since the legal action was initiated in 2005. Progress on some outstanding issues, such as the herring seiner exclusion line, were made; however, the department will continue with demands for an increased allocation of species such as snow crab, bluefin tuna, gulf and northern shrimp, halibut and the unfair treatment of our groundfish-dependent fishers.

#### **Fisheries Resource Conservation Council (FRCC) Report**

The Fisheries Resource Conservation Council report on the Atlantic lobster fishery was released on July 4, 2007. The report made more than 30 major recommendations on the management of the resource.

The department assisted the Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association in distributing copies of the report to over 1,300 lobster fishers on the Island.

#### **Ministers Discuss Island Fisheries Concerns**

Minister Campbell and federal minister of Fisheries and Oceans Loyola Hearn met for the first time in Charlottetown on August 3, 2007.

One of the key topics the ministers discussed was the decline in lobster landings in the Northumberland Strait over the last two decades. A buy-out or licence retirement program is seen by many in the industry as one possible solution. Minister Hearn requested the Northumberland Strait Working Groups to complete their work, present the reports to ministers and then discussions on the reports with the provinces and the industry would occur.

In other topics discussed at the meeting, the federal minister committed for his department to provide a briefing session to Minister Campbell on Bill C-45, the proposed new federal *Fisheries Act*, and to discuss the recommendations of the Fisheries Resource

Conservation Council (FRCC) report on the lobster fishery.

Both ministers agreed to the importance of ongoing dialogue to address issues.

#### **Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers (CCFAM)**

The Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers met in November, in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Ministers established a task group on eco-labeling. Over 80 per cent of Canadian seafood is exported and consumers are becoming increasingly aware of sustainability issues and food safety. Eco-labeling is emerging as a priority for all levels of government. The task group will ensure governments are ready to better support industry in the certification process and to ensure a consistent approach across Canada.

#### **Atlantic Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers (ACFAM)**

Minister Campbell co-chaired the 2007 Atlantic Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers meeting, held in Montreal. Ministers in attendance discussed the challenges facing the Atlantic fisheries, including a strong Canadian dollar, rising fuel costs and global competition. They noted the importance of taking a more integrated approach to managing the fishery that includes all the players in the seafood value chain, particularly harvesters and processors. They agreed to pursue this integrated approach through what is being referred to as the oceans-to-plate approach. The ministers also agreed to establish a working group on seafood marketing and encouraged the federal minister to table a new and modernized *Fisheries Act*.

#### **Lobster Resource Monitoring Program**

The Lobster Resource Monitoring Program continued in 2007 with the collection of data through at-sea sampling on-board commercial fishing vessels and volunteer fishers. The department's lobster biologist and three

technicians, hired through a contract with the Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association, sampled on-board commercial lobster boats for a total of 66 fishing days during the spring and fall seasons.

In addition, 88 volunteer fishers from lobster fishing areas (LFAs) 24, 25 and 26A gathered daily data from special and designated traps. This experimental trap program had representatives from 32 Island ports. The information gathered through this program represented more than 100,000 lobsters from 40,000 trap hauls and helped to maintain a detailed profile of the harvestable lobster resource caught in Island waters.

#### **Lobster Research**

In 2007, during at-sea sampling, staff tagged over 165 female lobsters that were returned to the water during the commercial fishery as required by the prohibited size range set out in the 2007 management plan. The recapture of these individuals during subsequent fishing activity anticipates a better understanding of the movement of these lobsters. Fishers, in 2007, reported 28 recaptures of lobsters that had been tagged as part of this research in previous years.

A collaborative project involving the department, Fisheries and Oceans Science, and members of the Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association involved fishing in the Hillsborough Bay and adjacent waters in 2007. This project was a mark and recapture study of female lobsters measuring 115 to 129 mm carapace length with the intent of better understanding the effectiveness of the management measure to protect these lobsters by calculating their contribution to the overall egg production in the area.

The department continued its financial support by contributing core funding to the Atlantic Veterinary College's Lobster Science Centre and contribution to the Centre's Atlantic

Innovation Fund "Atlantic Lobsters Quality and Molt" project.

### **Lobster Management**

On April 24, 2007, the 2007 lobster management plan for the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence, including LFAs 24 and 26A, was announced. The management measures of minimum legal carapace size of 70 mm and the prohibited size range (window) of 115 mm to 129 mm whereby all female lobsters in that range were to be returned to the water were maintained for the 2007 season. At the request of LFA 26A fishers on Prince Edward Island, a requirement for fishers to string a minimum of six lobster traps per line was implemented for a portion of water adjacent to Prince Edward Island in LFA 26A.

The 2007 lobster fishery management plan for LFA 25 was announced on July 23, 2007. The plan included a minimum legal carapace size of 70 mm, a maximum size of 114 mm for females, a mandatory height of 40 mm for escape mechanisms required on traps, a maximum size for entrance hoops in traps was a diameter of 152 mm, and the possession of lobster and fishing gear was prohibited between 9 p.m. and one hour before sunrise.

### **Lobster Landings**

Catches for the 2007 season were approximately 13.2 million pounds in LFA 24; 3.9 million pounds in LFA 26A; and three million pounds for LFA 25, for a total of 20.1 million pounds. The landings in 2007 were down from 2006 landings of 21.5 million pounds. Historical data on lobster landings and values are contained in **Appendix II**.

The spring season opened on Monday, April 30 and closed on June 30. Canner prices started between \$5 and \$5.25, and markets were \$6. Canner prices were between \$5 and \$5.65, and markets were between \$6 and \$6.50 at the conclusion of the spring fishery. Fall prices were \$4.50 for canners and \$5 for markets.

### **International Lobster Conference**

Prince Edward Island hosted the 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference and Workshop on Lobster Biology and Management from September 23 to 28, 2007 in Charlottetown. The conference was co-hosted by the Prince Edward Island Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Lobster Science Centre of the Atlantic Veterinary College. Over 260 delegates attended from around the world.

The conference featured an industry day with presentations on lobster biology and management from Canadian, American, Australian, New Zealand, European and South African perspectives.

### **Toad Crab**

In 2007, 11 commercial licence holders were eligible to fish in the sub-zone from Covehead Harbour to East Point and three exploratory permits continued to gather data on the toad crab stocks in the zone west of Covehead to North Cape. The management measures for 2007 included a season of July 13 to September 28, 2007, and a minimum carapace size of 60 mm.

Department staff continued their collaboration with the toad crab fishers and Fisheries and Oceans Canada biologists to collect data on the crab population in the zone west of Covehead to North Cape in hopes that a fishery may be developed in that zone.

Toad crab landings for 2007 were approximately 1.4 million pounds with a landed value of \$350,000.



### **Rock Crab**

2007 landings of rock crab were approximately five million pounds with a landed value of \$1.3 million. These landings include crab landed in the directed rock crab fisheries and crab retained as a by-catch during the lobster fisheries.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada's removal of conditions previously in place to control the retention of rock crab during the lobster fishery remains a concern to fishers. Fishers are concerned over the amount and sizes of rock crab landed as by-catch and would like to see a return of the conditions for daily limits and minimum legal sizes. The department will continue to support fishers in their effort to resolve this issue.

### **Snow Crab**

The snow crab fishery opened on April 28 for Area 12 fishers. The 2007 Area 12 quota was decreased by 10 per cent to 23,207 metric tonnes. The traditional fishers received 797 metric tonnes, while 492 metric tonnes was allocated for new access permits. This allocation is split with 88 per cent belonging to the Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association and 12 per cent belonging to the Prince Edward Island groundfish dependent fishers. Eighty-eight Island fishers received a five metric tonne allocation each from this temporary quota.

Snow crab prices ranged from \$2 to \$2.25 per pound. Prince Edward Island also has one mid-shore fisher who fishes in Zone E. The Zone E overall quota was 221 metric tonnes with 220 metric tonnes landed.

### **Groundfish**

The overall total allowable catch for cod in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence, referred to as Area 4T, was reduced by 50 per cent to 2,000 metric tonnes in 2007. For the fixed gear fishery, the fleets throughout the Maritimes and Quebec split their quota by area in a manner that no province had a quota by itself. Group A area

covers Gaspé and Northeast New Brunswick fishers. Southeast Prince Edward Island (LFA 26A), Cape Breton and Magdalen Islands share Group C, whereas LFA 24 Prince Edward Island fishers and Southeast New Brunswick-based fishers share Group B.

Group B fishers had 39 metric tonnes remaining of their 66 metric tonnes directed fixed gear fishery. Less than 45 fishers registered with the Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association to participate in this fishery, compared to 115 in 2006. There was a re-opening on September 14 to fish the remaining quota. Final landings were 53 metric tonnes for Group B fishers. Group C fishers (LFA 26A area) had less than six active fishers and landed only 0.8 metric tonnes.

### **Charter Boat Fishery**

Charter boat fishers were able to retain cod in 2007. There were 12 active charter boats registered in 2007 and were required to undergo dockside monitoring. A total of approximately 25,000 pounds of cod were landed in July and August from these vessels. These fishers had to acquire quota from an individual transferrable quota entity in order to participate in the charter boat fishery.

### **Herring**

The spring and fall herring plans for the Southern Gulf (4T) were announced in late April. The spring quota was reduced to 5,000 metric tonnes from 9,000 metric tonnes, while the fall quota remained unchanged at 68,800 metric tonnes.

Some additional measures for the spring fishery in herring fishing area (HFA) 16C/E, (western Prince Edward Island) included a one-day closure, a lower weekly limit and a reduction of nets to 22 from 27. These measures were introduced to reduce the fishing effort. As well, 500 metric tonnes have been allocated to cover unrecorded bait landings.



Only 2,615 metric tonnes (41.4 per cent) were landed in 4T. Prince Edward Island landed 758 metric tonnes as compared to 2,005 metric tonnes landed in 2006, only 22 per cent of the 9,000 metric tonne quota.

### Eastern Fall Herring

The herring fishing area (HFA)16G (Fishermen's Bank area) had a quota of 9,005 metric tonnes and landings were 7,306 metric tonnes (81 per cent). Of the 9,005 metric tonne quota in HFA 16G, 800 metric tonnes were allocated for the summer fishery and 16 metric tonnes were landed.

The roe season began on August 19 with an 80,000 pound weekly quota (five days/week) without daily limits. Over 60 vessels were active in this fishery with another six Island vessels in the Pictou Bank harvest.

In Area 16C/E, western Island fishers shared their quota with southern New Brunswick and western Nova Scotia fishers. The 2007 fall quota was set at 9,205 metric tonnes. Of this quota, two 2,500 metric tonne allocations were provincial quota – New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island/Nova Scotia and the remainder was under a competitive quota. Prince Edward Island landed 2,182 metric tonnes of their quota and another 1,780 metric tonnes of the competitive quota. The fall herring price was eight cents per pound with no change throughout the season. Over 40 Island fishers fished the 16C/E fall quota.

### Bluefin Tuna

The 2007 tuna allocation for Canada was 546.41 metric tonnes. Prince Edward Island received 147.66 metric tonnes from the overall inshore quota of 491.85 metric tonnes. Island fishers agreed to split the season in an attempt to obtain better prices.

The early season began on the last day of July with a quota of 40 metric tonnes within two five-day week periods. The quota was over-caught at 50.3 metric tonnes with 174 tuna landed, of which 77 tuna were landed at North Lake and prices were between \$2 and \$16 per pound.

The second part of the season was open from September 17 to 19. There were 205 active Prince Edward Island tuna licence holders with 157 catching at least one tuna.

The total tuna landings for 2007 were 145.05 metric tonnes with 434 fish caught. Prices were relatively low with most going between \$4 and \$8 per pound. The remaining quota of 2.3 metric tonnes will be included in Prince Edward Island's 2008 season quota. The following is a breakdown of tuna caught by port for Prince Edward Island:

North Lake	100	Milligan's Wharf	12
Tignish	93	Souris	20
Seacow Pond	43	Tracadie	5
Machon's Pt	39	Savage Harbour	9
North Rustico	26	Malpeque	6
Naufrage	38	Skinner's Pond	1
Northport	19	Redhead	2
Total		413	

### **Northern Shrimp**

The 2007 total allowable catch (TAC) remained unchanged from 2006. Canada receives 83 per cent of the 3L quota and thus a TAC of 18,325 metric tonnes, an increase of 7,492 metric tonnes from 2005. Since 2000, Prince Edward Island had been awarded a temporary allocation in 3L of 1,500 metric tonnes. The Prince Edward Island Atlantic Shrimp Corporation signed a multi-year agreement with Ocean Choice International in 2005 to fish the Prince Edward Island shrimp allocation. Proceeds are invested in projects that involve harvesters, processors and the Lobster Science Centre. For more information on the Atlantic Shrimp Corporation, please visit the following website: [www.peishrimp.com](http://www.peishrimp.com).

### **Gulf Shrimp**

The TAC in 2007 remained unchanged at 36,183 metric tonnes. Prince Edward Island maintained its temporary status in the fishery and received an allocation of 257 metric tonnes. Traditional shrimp fleets, as well as other fishers from Quebec, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, continue to have temporary access based on the high abundance of this species.

### **Mackerel**

Canada's annual TAC for mackerel is 75,000 metric tonnes. This is shared on a ratio of 60:40, with the inshore fleet (including <65' vessels) receiving 60 per cent of the quota or 45,000 metric tonnes. 2007 landings were only 2,648 metric tonnes, attributed to the lack of consistent supply of large mackerel and the limited effort. Mackerel is harvested in the spring and the fall.

### **Seaplants**

Seaplant buyers communicated with harvesters that markets were weak for both Furcellaria and Irish moss, with the possibility of there not being a season. In June, the Prince Edward Island government met with the three buyers and facilitated loans that enabled a limited harvest.

The Furcellaria season began in mid-July, one month later than usual, with weekly quotas of 20,000 pounds per vessel. Over 55 fishers registered for this fishery.

The season for Irish moss began at the same time, as buyers' demands warranted. Approximately 3,300,000 pounds of Irish moss was harvested and 2,750,000 pounds of furcellaria was harvested. The price for Irish moss was 12 cents per pound wet and 42 cents per pound for dry product. Furcellaria prices were seven cents wet, and 35 cents for dry product. Final Irish landings were 7.7 million pounds at a value of \$925,000.

### **Premier's Tuna Award**

James Gaudet, a fisherman from Tignish Run was recognized for landing the largest bluefin tuna of the 2007 season. Premier Robert Ghiz presented the Premier's Cup to Mr. Gaudet on February 18, 2008. The award was instituted in recognition of the role tuna fishing plays in the Island economy and the international recognition it brings to Prince Edward Island.

The bluefin tuna, landed on September 17, 2007, by Gaudet, weighed 1,085 pounds or 493 kilograms. He fought the tuna for 1½ hours aboard the vessel Lady Michelle No. 1 off North Cape. He had assistance from his wife Donna, son Dwayne and long-time friend Jeff Barlow in landing the fish. Mr. Gaudet has been fishing tuna since 1987 and lobsters since 1972 in western Prince Edward Island.



*Premier Ghiz presents James Gaudet and his wife with the Premier's Cup for landing the largest bluefin tuna of the 2007 season.*

## ***Seafood Services Section***

Staff of the Seafood Services Section provide advice and assistance to clients regarding maintenance of fish quality and production of quality seafood products. The section administers regulations under the Prince Edward Island *Fisheries Act* and the Prince Edward Island *Fish Inspection Act*. The section is also responsible for gathering, compiling and publishing fisheries information including statistical data relating to the maintenance and development of fishery resources.

Section staff undertake development projects for the improvement of fishing ports and shellfish landing sites under provincial jurisdiction. As well, projects are carried out on the promotion of seafood through a food demonstration program called Out of the Sea and Over the Coals and through participation in the Prince Edward Island Exhibitions Association's Linking Land and Sea Program.

### **Licensing**

The Seafood Services Section is responsible for the administration of licences pertaining to processing, buying and peddling under the Prince Edward Island *Fisheries Act Regulations*. Fish processing licences are divided into four categories: primary processing, secondary processing, lobster cookroom (limited to 144 square feet of processing area) and groundfish processing (limited to 750 square feet of processing area). In 2007 the department issued 54 primary processing licences, three secondary processing licences, 21 lobster cookroom licences and seven groundfish processing licences.

Fish buying licences are issued on a species-per-buying-station basis. The six categories are lobster, other crustaceans, groundfish, pelagic, mollusc and other fish. During 2007 the department issued 157 spring and 36 fall lobster buying licences, 128 other crustaceans,

67 ground fish, 123 pelagic, 143 mollusc and 11 other licences.

In addition, 24 fish peddling licences were issued to individuals and/or companies who peddle fish (processed in licensed establishments) to various consumers throughout Prince Edward Island.

Two fisheries inspection officers are responsible to enforce regulations under the Prince Edward Island *Fish Inspection Act* and the Prince Edward Island *Fisheries Act*.

### **Prince Edward Island Seafood Processing Projects**

The department partnered with the Prince Edward Island Shrimp Corporation and the Prince Edward Island Seafood Processors Association to carry out a number of research projects to enhance the processing industry on Prince Edward Island.

These projects include development of a promotional video for the seafood industry, development of an accommodations database for the seafood industry and maintaining a seafood employment office.

### **Dead Mammal Disposal**

The Seafood Services Section is responsible to co-ordinate and pay the costs for removal of dead marine mammals that appear on Island beaches throughout the year. The majority of these mammals are either examined in the field by personnel from the Atlantic Veterinary College, or in some cases, the carcasses are transported to the Atlantic Veterinary College for post-mortem examination.

Staff work closely with Fish and Wildlife Conservation Officers in disposal of carcasses. The cost for disposal of dead mammals varies

from year to year. The variables involved are the size, location, condition of the carcass, etc.

In the case of seals, decomposed carcasses are buried on the beach and fresh carcasses are transported to the Atlantic Veterinary College for examination. In the majority of cases, conservation officers deliver the carcasses to the Atlantic Veterinary College.

Environment officials approve locations for burial of dead carcasses and a local contractor or an individual in the area carries out of the work of disposal. The Seafood Services Section co-ordinated the removal of eight seals during 2007-08.

### **Shellfish Landing Sites**

The Seafood Services Section is responsible for the maintenance of approximately 50 shellfish launching sites in various rivers and bays throughout the province. There are continuous erosion problems on the coastline and contractors are hired periodically to provide gravel and shale in order to assure that shellfishers have access to the rivers and bays.

### **Hurds Point Trailer Park**

The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture partnered with the Prince Edward Island Shellfish Association and the Central Development Agency to develop a 60-site trailer park at Hurd's Point, for oyster fishermen to utilize during the spring oyster season.

The Central Development Agency will operate the park with funds generated from user fees. The park is intended to be in full operation for the 2008 oyster fishing season.



*New Hurd's Point Trailer Park for oyster fishers to utilize during the spring oyster season.*





## Aquaculture Division

The Aquaculture Division is responsible for providing high quality advice, assistance and information to the Island's shellfish and finfish aquaculture sectors. As well, the section administers programs and services to support the Island's estuarine shellfish fishery. In 2007, the landed value of shellfish and finfish products such as mussels, oysters, clams and salmonids was approximately \$30 million. Employment in the sector represented more than 2,500 jobs.

Activities and programs delivered by staff in the past year were diverse. Staff were involved in providing technical and biological advice to the shellfish and finfish sectors. In addition, staff delivered a number of incentive programs that complemented technical services and assisted in the overall development of the aquaculture sector. Staff were active on a number of national committees and working groups, advocating for the Prince Edward Island aquaculture industry.

### Mussel Monitoring Program

The Aquaculture Division continued to deliver the Mussel Monitoring Program (MMP) to mussel growers. Information was collected in 33 areas representing 21 river or bay systems, which are utilized for mussel spat collection and/or grow out. The program assisted growers in managing their lease sites by providing information on the timing of mussel spatfall, mussel meat yields, water quality, numbers of tunicate larvae and presence of potentially toxic algal species. The majority of the program was conducted during the ice-free season, with a focus on mussel spatfall prediction between May and August and monitoring for potentially harmful algae from September to December.

Meat yield analysis was conducted periodically on samples collected from under the ice in the winter months. Information collected through the Mussel Monitoring Program was communicated to industry via the following:

- website:  
[www.gov.pe.ca/af/agweb/fisheries/index.php3](http://www.gov.pe.ca/af/agweb/fisheries/index.php3)
- voice-mail system: 1-800-454-3233 or 368-6510
- year-end summary report

### Mussel Processing Waste

With the dramatic increase in the production of mussels over the last several years and the increase in waste volume due to invasive tunicate species, the issue of mussel processing waste management again received considerable discussion in 2007. Staff worked to find financial and environmental solutions to the issues of shell waste disposal and socking material disposal. A follow up of the 2005 survey of socking material waste was completed. The department worked closely with mussel processing plants to explore the development of equipment to reduce the weight of socking material and eventual disposal at the Island Waste Management Corporation, the only approved disposal site for socking material.

### Oyster Larvae Monitoring Program

During the summer of 2007, staff carried out an Oyster Larvae Monitoring Program. Six oyster seed collection areas were monitored two to three times per week from the first week of July to the third week in August. Information on larvae size and abundance was collected and oyster spat collectors were placed at several of the major spat collection areas to monitor

abundance and frequency of spat-fall. The results were reported to industry using a voice-mail system, a presentation at the Island Oyster Growers annual general meeting and a summary report at year-end.

### **Oyster Shellbed Cultivation**

Staff conducted trials to assess the impact of shellbed cultivation on oyster beds in West River to explore the effectiveness of cultivation of oyster beds. This technique has been considered beneficial to enhance oyster spat settlement by exposing clean shell. Assessment of this trial will continue into the 2008/2009 fiscal year.

### **Aquatic Invasive Species**

Since 1997, six marine aquatic invasive species have invaded the waters surrounding Prince Edward Island and have negatively impacted the shellfish industry. The invasive species include the oyster thief, the green crab, the clubbed tunicate, the golden star tunicate, the violet tunicate and the vase tunicate. The mussel industry has been the most affected by impacts from fouling by the four species of tunicates. However, the green crab has impacted shellfish species, particularly soft shell clams in the eastern portion of Prince Edward Island. As well, another invasive species, the oyster drill, which was introduced into Prince Edward Island waters in the early 1900s, is increasing in its population size and is impacting cultured and wild oysters. Known locations of the oyster drill include Conway Narrows, Bedeque Bay, Enmore River, Foxley River, Orwell River and Vernon River.

### **Field Work Related to Aquatic Invasive Species**

Field work activities included partnering in a research project in conjunction with the Prince Edward Island Aquaculture Alliance that was funded by the Prince Edward Island Aquaculture and Fisheries Research Initiative. The project was designed to collect information on two aquatic invasive species. It was designed to study the impact of tunicate species on different types of suspended oyster culture grow-out equipment and to assess the effectiveness of several different trap designs in reducing the number of oyster drills (*Urosalpinx cinerea*) on oyster leases. The results of this project were presented at several industry meetings and a technical report was also prepared on the project.



Staff monitored mussel production areas on a weekly basis during the ice-free season for the presence and quantity of tunicate larvae. The information was provided to the industry to help growers manage tunicate fouling on their farms. This activity was carried out in conjunction with the Mussel Monitoring Program and results were distributed on the website and phone line.



Staff spent time assessing mussel seed growing areas for the presence of invasive species. On the request of industry members, staff of the Mussel Monitoring Program surveyed all mussel seed collection areas in the late summer for the presence and quantities of tunicate fouling. The results were presented to the Aquatic Invasive Species Tunicate Subcommittee, the Introductions and Transfers Tunicate Subcommittee and reported in the Mussel Monitoring Program Annual Report.

The vase tunicate (*Ciona intestinalis*) continues to be the dominant invasive species of concern in Montague River, Brudenell River, St. Mary's Bay, Murray River and Cardigan River. Low infestation levels were found in Boughton River.

Growers in the Marchwater area of Malpeque Bay are managing large populations of the clubbed tunicate (*Styela clava*). The quantity of the clubbed tunicate increased in Darnel Basin as well. The colonial tunicates were dominant in the north shore bays including Tracadie Bay, St. Peters bay and Savage Harbour.

The clubbed tunicate was identified growing on oyster gear in oyster production areas including Foxley River and Bideford River. These new findings created issues with transfers of market and seed oysters from those areas.

In preparation for the 2008 field season, staff worked co-operatively with the Prince Edward Island Aquaculture Alliance in developing a proposal to the Aquaculture and Fisheries Research Initiative to study low impact treatment methods to manage tunicates on mussel farms. The project was approved for funding and will be conducted in 2008.

The distribution of the green crab (*Carcinus maenas*) was monitored in a trapping survey conducted by staff. Green crab are prevalent in the bays and rivers in Eastern Prince Edward Island. The green crab has increased its

distribution along the north shore to include Covehead Bay, Tracadie Bay and Southwest River. The size of the population continues to increase, especially in the eastern portion of the province. The green crab is an aggressive crab species that preys on bivalve mollusks and other crustaceans.



In co-operation with the Prince Edward Island Aquaculture Alliance, staff co-ordinated an invasive species awareness campaign during the summer of 2007. The purpose of this campaign was to promote the awareness of invasive species with recreational boaters, commercial fishers, aquaculturists and the general public, in an attempt to prevent or slow the spread of aquatic invasive species due to anthropogenic activities. The campaign consisted of three activities: signs at wharfs and boat launches around the province with information on invasive species, radio ads during July and August to raise the awareness of invasive species to recreational boaters, and students with the Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry's Environmental Futures Program attended several festivals and events centred around boating and water-related activities promoting awareness of aquatic invasive species. As well, the week of July 8 to 14 was declared as Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness Week. Several events were held throughout the week to increase the awareness of aquatic invasive species.

### **Funding, Committees and Working Groups Related to Aquatic Invasive Species**

Staff of the Aquaculture Division participated as committee members on the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers (CCFAM) Task Group on Aquatic Invasive Species. The task group developed a National Action Plan for Aquatic Invasive Species and worked on other national strategies related to aquatic invasive species such as plans for engaging Canadians, early detection and rapid response for aquatic invasive species and an aquatic invasive species risk assessment process. The CCFAM discussed transitioning the task group to a permanent National Aquatic Invasive Species Committee with a mandate to work on national initiatives related to aquatic invasive species.

The Atlantic Zone Task Force on Aquatic Invasive Species met twice during 2007. This task force reports to the Atlantic Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture ministers and provides direction for policy, research and programs related to aquatic invasive species being conducted in Atlantic Canada. The committee is co-chaired by the deputy minister of the department and the Fisheries and Oceans Canada regional director general for the Gulf Region.

Aquaculture staff are members on the Introductions and Transfers Committee (ITC) and the Introductions and Transfers Tunicate Subcommittee (ITTS), chaired by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The ITC makes decisions on the introductions and transfers of aquatic organisms into and within Prince Edward Island waters. The ITTS provides advice to the ITC on issues around restrictions on shellfish transfers because of infestations of tunicates. The purpose of the restrictions is to prevent or slow the spread of tunicate species as a result of shellfish transfers.

Staff also participate on the Aquatic Invasive Species Steering committee, along with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and industry. The committee meets weekly to provide direction

for monitoring and research related to aquatic invasive species on Prince Edward Island.

Staff of the Aquaculture Division are members of the Atlantic Zone Aquatic Invasive Species Research Committee, chaired by Fisheries and Oceans Canada, which provides direction to Fisheries and Oceans Canada science branch on their research activities and monitoring program.

Staff also represented Atlantic Canada, along with the executive director of the Prince Edward Island Aquaculture Alliance, as members of the board of the Canadian Aquatic Invasive Species Network. This board provides direction on the funding of research projects related to aquatic invasive species under the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. Several projects have been funded in Atlantic Canada on aquatic invasive species.



The department was a partner with Fisheries and Oceans Canada in the Development Fund II that provided \$150,000 in funding to the industry for projects related to the development of equipment and technologies for the control of tunicates fouling cultured mussels and gear. This program was delivered by the Aquaculture Division. As well, the department partnered with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency to provide \$600,000 to initiate a Mussel Aquaculture Productivity Improvement Fund

for the development of equipment and technologies to control tunicates and improve the productivity of tunicate infested farms. This program will be delivered by the Prince Edward Island Aquaculture Alliance in 2008/2009.

The department partnered with Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Atlantic Veterinary College and industry to fund and set direction for a research project under Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency's Atlantic Innovation Fund. The project involves the development of techniques and mitigation strategies for invasive tunicate species fouling mussel farms. The project was awarded to the Prince Edward Island Aquaculture Alliance and the research for the project is being conducted by the Atlantic Veterinary College.

The department partnered with Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency to provide funding to the Prince Edward Island Aquaculture Alliance to develop a report on the future requirements of the aquaculture industry to deal with fouling by invasive tunicate species. The report, entitled *A Call to Action*, describes the type of programming required by the mussel and oyster industries to develop equipment and strategies to deal with tunicates.

### **Ministers Discuss Island Aquaculture Concerns**

Minister Campbell and Hon. Loyola Hearn, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada met in Charlottetown on August 3, 2007.

Discussions on the Island aquaculture industry focused on the impacts of aquatic invasive species. Minister Campbell stressed that investment in Prince Edward Island to develop the science and technology to manage invasive species will benefit other provinces that face this problem in the future.

### **International Sea Squirt Conference Hosted in Prince Edward Island**

Prince Edward Island hosted the second International Sea Squirt Conference at the Rodd Brudenell Resort in September. Aquaculture staff played an important role in bringing the conference to the Island and in the organization of the conference. There were approximately 200 participants with international experts in attendance and presenting the latest information on tunicates. As part of the conference, there was a special session on industry-related topics including options for mitigation.



### **Oyster Diseases – MSX (Multinucleated Sphere Unknown) and SSO (Seaside Organism)**

Aquaculture staff continued to work closely with officials from Fisheries and Oceans Canada to monitor oyster stocks throughout Prince Edward Island for the presence of MSX and SSO parasites. MSX was identified in the Bras D'or Lakes, Nova Scotia in 2002, but has never been identified in Prince Edward Island oysters. SSO was found in Island oysters in 2002, at non-threatening levels, and has not been detected since. Importing oysters from MSX positive areas in Nova Scotia is prohibited by the Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

### **Conditional Shellfish Openings**

In 2007, staff continued to work with shellfish leaseholders in the Vernon-Orwell River system and the Souris River system to maintain conditional openings for the harvest of oysters, quahaugs and clams. The conditional openings were a joint effort of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment Canada, the department and affected shellfish growers.

### **Assistance Programs**

Two incentive programs were delivered to the aquaculture sector: the Aquaculture Technology Program and the Environmental Practices Program. Seven projects were approved under the Aquaculture Technology Program, representing a government contribution of \$34,000. Six projects were approved under the Environmental Practices Program, representing a government contribution of \$44,500. These programs assisted the industry to evaluate new technologies and improve the environmental sustainability of aquaculture.

A total of \$80,000 was approved for the Prince Edward Island Shellfish Association to carry out oyster enhancement activities on public fishing grounds. Projects included seed collection, oyster relays and shell spreading. Each project is carried out with a goal to either improve oyster quality or increase the acreage of public oyster grounds. The Prince Edward Island Shellfish Association cost-shared the oyster enhancement activities and delivered the program with technical assistance from staff of the Aquaculture Division. The long-term commitment of the department to the enhancement of the public oyster fishery has resulted in increased landings and opportunities for oyster fishers.



The department continued to support the Atlantic Veterinary College's Shellfish Aquaculture Research Program. A contribution provided the Atlantic Veterinary College with the necessary infrastructure and research support to attract funding and conduct research projects identified by, and relevant to, the Island shellfish industry.



The department supported the Prince Edward Island Aquaculture Alliance under the Fisheries Organization Support Fund. The Prince Edward Island Aquaculture Alliance is the voice of the Island aquaculture industry and its efforts have been instrumental in addressing numerous research, development and regulatory issues facing the aquaculture sector.

#### **Aquaculture Leasing Program**

The department continued its partnership with the aquaculture industry to provide management advice to Fisheries and Oceans Canada for delivery of the Aquaculture Leasing Program. The department has membership on the Lease Management Board which met a number of times over the year to oversee development of work plans, financial plans, and the policy framework of the program. The department was also represented on the Leasing Referral Committee and provided advice on applications for new sites and other transactions. Under the Aquaculture Leasing Program, Fisheries and Oceans Canada makes the final decision on leasing matters, however, the industry and province have a role in management decisions. All parties contribute financially to the program.

#### **National Aquatic Animal Health Program**

The National Aquatic Animal Health Program (NAAHP) is a fish health program designed to protect Canadian farmed and wild fish stocks as well as Canadian export markets. The development of the NAAHP is being led by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in co-operation with Fisheries and Oceans Canada. During 2007, staff participated in consultations on regulatory changes to the *Health of Animals Act* that are required for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to manage the program. Although the Canadian Food Inspection Agency is currently active in fish health issues, the new regulations are not expected to be in place until 2009-2010. Staff also participated on the National Aquatic Animal Health Committee which provides input to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for program development.

Consultations regarding surveillance and program development are planned for 2008. For more information on the NAAHP please visit the website

[www.inspection.gc.ca/english/direct/naahp](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/direct/naahp) .

#### **Aquaculture 2012**

The Aquaculture Task Group under the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers worked with the Aquaculture Management Directorate of Fisheries and Oceans Canada in the development of the Aquaculture 2012 program for the Canadian aquaculture industry. Fisheries and Oceans Canada announced \$70 million in funding for the program which is to be delivered over the next five years. Staff from the Aquaculture Division are members and are very active on the Aquaculture Task Group.

As well, the Atlantic Canadian ministers responsible for aquaculture played a strategic and important role in supporting Fisheries and Oceans Canada to fund this program. Minister Campbell was part of an Atlantic Canadian delegation, that included fisheries and aquaculture ministers and officials from Canada's five eastern provinces and Manitoba, that met with federal cabinet ministers. The delegation presented the importance of aquaculture to the Canadian economy and garnered support among the federal cabinet ministers for the program.

The Aquaculture Task Group also organized a trade mission to Chile. Delegates on the mission included Minister Campbell, ministers responsible for aquaculture in Atlantic Canada, federal fisheries Minister Loyola Hearn, and federal and provincial government officials. The delegation visited Aqua Sur, the largest aquaculture trade show in Chile, research and development facilities, several salmon farms, processing facilities and a mussel farm. Chile is an important producer of aquaculture products and aquaculture is a rapidly growing industry

there. Several companies from Prince Edward Island are conducting business in Chile and also were exhibitors at the tradeshow.



### **Memorandum of Agreement on Aquaculture in Atlantic Canada**

Ministers responsible for aquaculture in Atlantic Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work co-operatively together to develop aquaculture in Atlantic Canada. There has always been an excellent working relationship between the provincial governments in Atlantic Canada in the areas of fisheries and aquaculture and this memorandum formalized the co-operation on aquaculture between the provinces in areas of common interest. Issues that will be addressed under the memorandum include aquatic invasive species, fish health management, co-ordination in research and development, investment in aquaculture, regional marketing and promotion, training, education and harmonization of regulations.





## Seafood Promotion

### **Prince Edward Island International Shellfish Festival**

The department once again sponsored and was actively involved with the organization of another very successful Prince Edward Island International Shellfish Festival held from September 14 to 16. The festival is co-sponsored by the Prince Edward Island Shellfish Association and the Prince Edward Island Aquaculture Alliance. The International Shellfish Festival has grown into one of the largest promotions of shellfish in Eastern Canada, attracting in excess of 10,000 visitors annually.

### **Linking Land and Sea**

The department participated in the Linking Land and Sea summer program in co-operation with the Prince Edward Island Association of Exhibitions. This program promotes seafood by showing various ways that seafood can be prepared. These promotions take place at various events such as Old Home Week, Summerside Lobster Carnival, Northumberland Fisheries Festival and the Tyne Valley Oyster Festival.

### **Out of the Sea and Over the Coals**

The department had a busy summer with the seafood promotion program, Out of the Sea and Over the Coals. This program has been in operation for over 20 years, bringing the sizzling taste of seafood from the barbecue to thousands of people, visitors and Islanders. In 2007, the program hosted over 50 events between June 26 and August 25. Demonstrations occurred at exhibitions, fairs, festivals, national and provincial parks, Confederation Landing Park, Spinnaker's

Landing and Basin Head Fisheries Museum.

These events were professionally demonstrated by two university students and attracted over 2,500 people visiting Prince Edward Island from across Canada, the United States and Europe.

### **International Boston Seafood Show**

Government and industry representatives attended the International Boston Seafood Show in February with the goal of developing new and expanded markets for Prince Edward Island seafood products and processing equipment. Minister Allan V. Campbell and Development and Technology Minister Richard Brown, along with members of the Legislative Assembly Buck Watts and Charlie McGeoghan, joined 15 Island companies who had booths or representatives at the show.

Prince Edward Island seafood and marine businesses have been successful in developing markets around the world, and this event provides an excellent opportunity to meet with existing customers, make new contacts, expand markets and identify additional export opportunities. The provincial government is strongly supportive of efforts to expand the sales of fisheries and aquaculture products, equipment and services.

The International Boston Seafood Show is North America's largest seafood exhibition. It attracts 18,000 buyers and sellers from around the world.

**World Ocean Day**

The department and Fisheries and Oceans Canada delivered a World Ocean Day celebration to the students and staff of the L.M. Montgomery Consolidated School in an effort to create awareness about the importance of the waters that surround Prince Edward Island.

Oceans Day (June 8) and Canadian Rivers Day (second Sunday in June) were celebrated together in one of Canada's newest celebratory "weeks" – Rivers to Oceans Week – from June 8 to 14. This special week focuses on creating an understanding of Canada's watersheds, our connection to fresh and saltwater environments and what we can do to protect them.

Students at the L.M. Montgomery school participated in a beach seine to collect marine specimens and learned more about what species are in Island waters. They also participated in the Dress in Blue contest, creativity contest and sampled delicious Island mussels.

**25<sup>th</sup> Annual West Prince Marine Show**

The department co-sponsored the trade show and once again, served delicious Island cultured mussels to everyone in attendance. The event attracted over 34 exhibitors from across the Maritimes, who showcased their products and services to over 600 visitors. This is the event fishermen attend to learn about new fishing equipment and services to improve their businesses.



## Appendixes

# APPENDIX I

## PEI Fish Landings & Values

2006

MOLLUSCS&CRUSTACEANS:	WEIGHT (LBS)	VALUE (\$000)
LOBSTER	21,480,284	113,391
SNOW CRAB ( See note # 2)	7,564,298	9,461
ROCK CRAB	5,052,106	1,661
SPIDER CRAB	1,388,559	485
BAR CLAMS	1,050,061	417
QUAHAUGS	680,064	738
MUSSELS	38,025,462	22,813
OYSTERS	6,439,913	7,793
SCALLOPS(shucked)	104,970	878
S.S. CLAMS	1,079,916	1,327
WHELKS	22,657	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>82,888,290</b>	<b>158,974</b>

PELAGICS & ESTUARIAL:	WEIGHT (LBS)	VALUE (\$000)
BLUEFIN TUNA *	466,493	3,265
MACKEREL	7,831,628	2,178
HERRING	30,328,499	2,624
GASPEREAUX	441,027	184
EELS	151,476	359
SMELTS	132,655	72
SILVERSIDES	1,191,885	604
SHARK	1,058	
DOGFISH		
CULTURED FINFISH **	22,500	1,311
SKATE		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40,567,221</b>	<b>10,597</b>

\*Additional to Tuna landings made by fishers to P.E.I. ports, landings were made by P.E.I. fishers to N.S. ports as follows:

Year 2006 - 82,827 Lbs with a value of \$ 0.6 million. Year 2007 - 16,314 Lbs with a value of \$ 0.1 million.

\*\*Cultured finfish species are Rainbow Trout, Arctic Char & Atlantic Salmon.

\*\*Landings include production from meat fish farms & fee-fish ponds; values include sales from meat fish farms, fee-fish ponds & hatcheries.

GROUND FISH:	WEIGHT (LBS)	VALUE (\$000)
COD	470,626	253
HAKE	843	
FLOUNDER	367,134	366
B. BACKS/WINTER FLO.	101,458	51
YELLOWTAIL	1,597	
TOMCOD	25,198	4
GREYSOLE	82	
HALIBUT	30,375	112
OTHER GROUND FISH	18,430	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,015,743</b>	<b>793</b>
<b>TOTAL FISH:</b>	<b>124,471,254</b>	<b>170,364</b>
FURCELLARIA	1,403,000	84
IRISH MOSS	13,079,000	1,488
OTHER ( Periwinkles)		
SEA URCHINS		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,482,000</b>	<b>1,572</b>
<b>TOTAL FISHERY:</b>	<b>138,953,254</b>	<b>171,936</b>

## PEI Fish Landings & Values

2007

MOLLUSCS&CRUSTACEANS:	WEIGHT (LBS)	VALUE (\$000)
LOBSTER	20,124,036	108,647
SNOW CRAB (See Note # 1)	7,282,703	15,778
ROCK CRAB	5,104,575	1,304
SPIDER CRAB	1,401,741	350
BAR CLAMS	728,364	296
QUAHAUGS	601,945	653
MUSSELS	37,645,688	21,777
OYSTERS	6,183,797	6,702
SCALLOPS	108,038	786
S.S. CLAMS	416,458	486
WHELKS		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>79,597,345</b>	<b>156,779</b>

PELAGICS & ESTUARIAL:	WEIGHT (LBS)	VALUE (\$000)
BLUEFIN TUNA *	302,912	2,120
MACKEREL	5,838,069	1,944
HERRING	27,492,010	2,769
GASPEREAUX	251,063	110
EELS	129,642	348
SMELTS	64,761	29
SILVERSIDES	1,080,492	423
SHARK	487	
DOGFISH		
CULTURED FINFISH **	30,000	1,684
SKATE		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35,189,436</b>	<b>9,427</b>

GROUND FISH:	WEIGHT (LBS)	VALUE (\$000)
COD	154,212	77
HAKE	382	
FLOUNDER	370,542	150
B. BACKS/WINTER FLO.	98,016	65
YELLOWTAIL	255	
TOMCOD	936	
GREYSOLE		
HALIBUT	16,521	67
OTHER GROUND FISH	4,637	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>645,501</b>	<b>361</b>
<b>TOTAL FISH:</b>	<b>115,432,282</b>	<b>166,567</b>
FURCELLARIA	1,509,840	91
IRISH MOSS	7,710,528	925
OTHER ( Periwinkles)		
SEA URCHINS		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,220,368</b>	<b>1,016</b>
<b>TOTAL FISHERY:</b>	<b>124,652,650</b>	<b>167,583</b>

Source: Statistics Division, Gulf Region, Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans and  
P.E.I. Dept. of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development

## APPENDIX II

### P.E.I. LOBSTER LANDINGS AND VALUES

1920 - 2007

Q = Quantity in millions of pounds V = Values in thousands of dollars

	Q	V		Q	V		Q	V
1920	8.3	703.9	1950	9.1	1,963.0	1980	11.8	15,458.0
1921	6.4	255.3	1951	8.3	1,702.0	1981	11.9	18,519.0
1922	8.8	651.4	1952	8.4	1,849.0	1982	12.2	22,599.0
1923	9.7	878.8	1953	7	1,997.0	1983	15.5	29,056.0
1924	6.5	564.8	1954	7.4	1,977.0	1984	13.6	23,137.8
1925	7.9	661.1	1955	8.3	2,324.0	1985	15	33,591.9
1926	6.6	601.8	1956	9.7	2,725.8	1986	18.3	44,494.2
1927	6.3	617.1	1957	8.5	2,456.3	1987	18.9	49,532.1
1928	6.6	553.1	1958	8	2,510.2	1988	22	56,128.9
1929	7.4	621.5	1959	8.4	2,843.2	1989	21.3	46,058.0
AVG. 20's	7.5	610.9	AVG. 50's	8.3	2,234.8	AVG. 80's	16.1	33,857.5
1930	8.1	539.7	1960	10.1	3,212.3	1990	22.4	40,348.0
1931	9.4	553.7	1961	9.5	3,055.0	1991	22.8	48,521.9
1932	11.5	551.7	1962	8.7	3,218.9	1992	19.9	59,439.0
1933	9.2	396.2	1963	7.4	3,155.8	1993	19.7	51,452.0
1934	7.7	536.0	1964	7.8	4,210.8	1994	18.9	65,398.0
1935	6.4	467.8	1965	8.8	5,176.6	1995	19.3	79,242.0
1936	6	544.4	1966	7.9	3,925.7	1996	19	66,424.0
1937	5.8	524.8	1967	9	5,228.9	1997	17.8	73,243.0
1938	7.1	458.8	1968	8.7	5,328.9	1998	18.9	80,553.0
1939	7	464.4	1969	8.2	5,375.8	1999	18.8	88,925.0
AVG. 30's	7.8	503.8	AVG. 60's	8.6	4,188.9	AVG. 90's	19.6	64,455.4
1940	5.6	353.9	1970	8.7	6,231.2	2000	19.1	87,769.2
1941	6	469.2	1971	8.2	5,860.6	2001	19.1	103,894.0
1942	6.4	694.8	1972	7.3	6,360.8	2002	19.9	105,399.0
1943	6	999.0	1973	7.7	7,503.2	2003	20	108,308.0
1944	6.6	1,149.7	1974	6.2	6,347.0	2004	19.9	100,099.0
1945	8.1	1,503.6	1975	8.6	8,135.5	2005	18.5	103,222.0
1946	7.9	1,982.7	1976	8.5	8,510.5	2006	21.5	113,391.0
1947	6.2	1,070.0	1977	9.1	10,012.0	2007	20.1	108,647.0
1948	6.5	1,411.9	1978	11.1	16,648.6			
1949	6.8	1,388.4	1979	11.8	18,073.9			
AVG. 40's	6.6	1,102.3	AVG. 70's	8.7	9,368.3			

Source: Statistics Division, Gulf Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada & PEI

Prince Edward Island Department of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development



## APPENDIX III

### Prince Edward Island Mussel Landings & Values 1980 - 2007

Year	Metric tonnes	000's Dollars
1980	40	54
1981	47	51
1982	69	107
1983	162	233
1984	285	407
1985	464	562
1986	1,218	1,880
1987	1,036	1,712
1988	1,441	1,405
1989	2,444	2,946
1990	2,697	2,675
1991	3,483	4,574
1992	4,179	4,959
1993	4,789	4,972
1994	5,949	6,321
1995	7,472	8,596
1996	8,821	10,693
1997	9,976	12,096
1998	12,465	15,110
1999	13,892	16,845
2000	17,899	21,703
2001	17,513	23,160
2002	16,785	22,202
2003	16,830	22,612
2004	17,576	23,249
2005	16,035	21,422
2006	17,248	22,813
2007	17,076	21,777

Source: DFO Statistics Division Moncton New Brunswick &  
Prince Edward Island Department of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development